PATRIOTS PREPARE
New England is ready for today's battle with the Titans. C3

FARMINGTON SHOCK
Town council member, under police investigation, resigns. B1

UTILITY RATE CUT
State, Eversource agree to reduced rate hike request. A6

FLASH FREEZE **
First flooding, then very cold. A2

Hartford Courant

VOLUME CLXXXII NUMBER 13 COURANT.COM SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2018

SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Report: Evidence Was Trampled

Police Say Sandy Hook Crime Scene Disturbed By Civilians

By DAVE ALTIMARI and DAVID OWENS
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So many people, including civilians, had access to the inside of the Sandy Hook Elementary School in the hours following the 2012 shooting where 26 students and adults were killed that some were stepping on bullet casings and contaminating the crime scene, a state police after-action report released Friday concluded.

The 74-page document reviewed everything from troopers not properly wearing bulletproof vests to how the victims' families were notified their child had died. It was released Friday more than five years after the massacre in which Adam Lanza killed 20 first-graders and six adults before killing himself.

One of the most critical parts was the handling of the crime scene — the two classrooms where the 20 children and four teachers were killed and the hallway where Principal Dawn Hochsprung and School Psychologist Mary Sherlach were killed.

"Other individuals from uninvolved CSP command staff to members of outside agencies to dignitaries were allowed into the school at one time or another over the next several days, disrupting the processing of the scene by detectives, potentially risking

SANDY HOOK, A4

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- Command center set up before SWAT cleared the area.
- Families frustrated by delay in death notifications.
- State police portable radios did not work well in school.
- Troopers' parked cars blocked access to school.
- Some troopers responded with no bulletproof vests on.

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

CVS To Keep Aetna In City

'Center Of Excellence' Planned For Hartford

By STEPHEN SINGER and KENNETH R. GOSSELIN
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CVS Health Corp., which is buying Aetna Inc. for $69 billion, said Friday it will keep the health insurer in Hartford, where it has been headquartered since 1853.

The announcement, in an email from CVS spokesman David Palombi, ends months of speculation about the location of Aetna, which sought unsuccessfully to move to New York City. "We have no plans to relocate Aetna's operations from Hartford and, in fact, view Hartford as the future location of our center of excellence for the insurance business," he said.

CVS will continue to be based in Woonsocket, R.I., Palombi said in an email. The company operates corporate hubs, or centers of excellence as the company calls the sites, in Arizona, Illinois and Texas. Palombi did not say how many workers will be at the Farmington Avenue site — if CVS continues to use it — or what functions will be performed in Hartford, where about 4,000 employees work. Aetna has 5,800 jobs in Connecticut.

AETNA, A4

THE STREETS OF HARTFORD

BRAD HORRIGAN | BHORRIGAN@COURANT.COM

A WET WALK DOWNTOWN

AN UMBRELLA was helpful to a walker in downtown Hartford on the way across the walkway over State Street Friday afternoon. A flood watch for the state continues Saturday, but the temperatures are expected to plunge. **Story Page B3.**

DISPARAGING REMARKS

Partial Denial, Defense By Trump

Amid Criticism Gauging Reaction

By JILL COLVIN and ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Friday offered a partial denial in public but privately defended his extraordinary remarks disparaging Haitians and African countries a day earlier. Trump said he was only expressing what many people think but won't say about immigrants from economically depressed countries, according to a person who spoke to the president as criticism of his comments ricocheted around the globe.

Trump spent Thursday evening making a flurry of calls to friends and outside advisers to judge their reaction to the tempest, said the confidant, who

TRUMP, A4

Local, Global Reactions

- Leaders in the state's immigrant community called President Trump's comments ignorant and racist; meanwhile, the flag of Haiti hung over the Governor's Residence in Hartford, above **Page B1**
- The world reacts. **Page A3**

INFLUENZA

Spike In Severe Flu-Related Illnesses

At Least 15 Deaths, Hospital Bed Shortage

By REBECCA LURYE
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With peak flu season still a few weeks off, Connecticut is already seeing a steep increase in flu-related deaths and hospitalizations, particularly among people 65 years and up, according to the state Department of Public Health.

As of Jan. 6, 15 people had died of influenza-related illness and 456 patients had been hospitalized this year, causing a shortage of beds at acute care facilities across the state, according to the DPH. It's not just Connecticut: The flu is now widespread in every state except Hawaii.

And while the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advises

FLU, A4

Drew Drops Out

Middletown Mayor Dan Drew has dropped out of the race for governor. He is short of cash and has been rejected by new members of his hometown Democratic town committee. **Connecticut, Page B1**

UConn Player Leaves

Freshman guard Andra Espinoza-Hunter, at right, will transfer from the university after missing the past four games for what UConn labeled as "personal reasons." **Sports, Page C4**

UConn Men's Vibes

The Huskies say they have "positive vibes" as they prepare to take on Tulane on Saturday. **Sports, Page C1**

J. Timothy's 'Paradise'

Plainville's J. Timothy's Taverne will be on the Travel Channel's "Food Paradise" Sunday. **Living, Page B10**

$3.00

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CLASSIFIED M1-4
COMICS, PUZZLES B8-9
LOTTERY A2
MOVIES B7
OBITUARIES B4-5
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